

COMPREHENDING STIRNER

Dear Editors,

"The moral man," wrote Stirner, "can never comprehend the egoist", and it seems that both John P. Clark and your reviewer John Brent are moral men. Both have a concept of an egoist as a cold, competitive, self-interested person, i.e. the moral man's concept of an egoist. People who actually read Stirner understand that his "egoist" is quite different.

Clark dogmatically states that "Stirner's thought... advocates a ruthless will to power, power over things, persons, and, above all, oneself" (pp. 25-26 in his book*). But Stirner himself describes "a Nero" as a possessed man, and writes that "worldly goods" must be "put away as no longer valuable" (*The Ego and His Own*, pp. 54, 347).

Then we find John Brent wondering "what is to prevent a group of successfully competitive egoists banding together to ensure that they remain at the top". But what are they competing for if they have put worldly goods away 'as no longer valuable'? To Stirner the feeling "I must be on top" is as much a denial of "egoism" as the feeling "I must serve others". Stirner's "egoist" has no such feelings at all, and sings "Ich hab' Mein' Sach' auf Nichts gestellt" — "I have set my affair on nothing." (*The Ego and His Own*) first and last pages.

The fact is that to understand Stirner you have to sit down, put aside all your preconceptions, and actually read his book as a whole. It is the extraordinary outburst—passionate, confused, inspired—of an amateur philosopher fighting his way single-handed out of the mental prison of social morality and religion, and into the freedom of psychological integration. Pathetic it may be in parts, and any competent professional philosopher can heartlessly pull it to pieces, but it contains enough of what may be called genuine religious insight to make it immortal.

Yours sincerely,
Bristol. Francis Ellingham

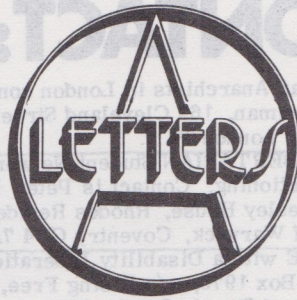
THE MURRAYS

Dear Friends,

'Tis not often I write to you... However, I read an article or letter in our paper (vol. 38 no. 1) and feel I must comment thus:-

Comrade B. J. Clifton (at least I suppose he is one of the brethren) stimulates me to pass on a few words. I shall try not to be too passionate. He mentions reader participation and will do his bit to oblige (how noble).

I object to his comparison of the Murrays with Bonnie and Clyde. Unfortunately I am more familiar with the latter mentioned than the former. How



does B. J. Clifton know what circumstances surround the killing of this policeman? I am not in favour of using violence for gain but I can sympathize with anyone that has had the law hot on his or her arse (I know the feeling only too well). Who will ever know the truth of what actually happened over there in that unhappy country?

So fuck the 19th century and support the Murrays in this one.

Best wishes,
Mick Cropper.

INTO THE ACTION

Terry Philips was unfair to FREEDOM in his letter (21 January) and I do agree with P. Murtagh (5 February) about a lot of "agitational" writing. It's often cretinous.

But Terry raises a crucial point. Is FREEDOM out of touch with the active movement or is the active movement out of touch with itself?

Probably the latter. Take, for instance, the apparently torpid state of the CBA at this moment.

It is evident that anarchists in general have not yet succeeded in getting down to any sort of consistent, continuous "agitational" work. My feeling is that one of the best and most concrete approaches to the problem would be the formation of a number of groups, preferably linked in a federation for easier communication (hopefully!) who would concentrate on collecting and distributing information on one particular area - health, education, Ireland, Spain (there is already the Libertarian Spain Committee), prisons, law, transport, work, energy or what-

PUBLICATIONS

WHAT IS MAKHAEVISM? by Paul Avrich. Makhajski was a Polish revolutionary who, using a critique based on the division of mental and manual labour, analysed Marxism as the false consciousness of a rising bureaucratic élite consisting of déclassé intellectuals and ex-workers. Copies of Avrich's essay available free. Send s.a.e. to News from Nowhere, 48 Manchester Street, Liverpool 1.

SCOTTISH LIBERTARIAN bi-monthly. SLF mag £1 for year's sub incl. post. No. 1 articles on elections & anarchism, subversion of records, Fight to Live, libertarian organisation & strategy etc. From Glasgow group. Also Pocketsedition, cartoon-based sit-comik 20p. p. f.

ever. (Also special defence groups like the Murrays', Marini's and so forth). They could be recognised as having particular knowledge on their area and be looked to to initiate action campaigns, etc at any appropriate moment. This seems to be especially necessary just now with the "welfare state" crumbling at the edges. Anarchists above all should seize such a psychologically good moment to put across their own alternatives of self-management within the community... and I think some degree of group specialisation would very much help us to get out of the general waffle and "into the action".

Maybe Terry or someone would give their views on this?

Impatient Reader

PS A reader's meeting is a good idea. So is another CBA meeting.

ANARCHY FOR KIDS

Dear Freedom

Ben Schumacher and others may be interested in the following people: New Seed Press, P.O. Box 3016, Stanford, CA 94305, USA, who publish children's books free from racial, class or sex-role stereotypes. I "found" them via Rising Free,* and a copy of "Fanshen the Magic Bear" (40p). The storyline, briefly, is that Laura - the king's rent collector - at Fanshen's inspiration, encourages the subjects of the kingdom to effect a peaceful revolution wherein king is deposed and a libertarian society is formed.

Seen both as a kid's book (writing, illustrations, characterisations etc) and as a political statement, the book is fine. Difficult to know what age, if any, it is aimed at, but whilst some of the sentence construction will be hard for younger readers, it would be suited - one way or another - for kids over a wide age range, 4 to 10 say.

Readers wishing to follow up the area of non-stereotyped children's literature should write to Children's Rights Workshop, 73 Balfour St, London SE 17, who have done a lot of work in this field. Other contacts can be got from them too.

Finally, re review of Ferlinghetti in the same issue (1 January). "Populist Manifesto" was featured in issue 1 of Z Revue (August '75) still available at 15p + post from 41 Norman St, Leicester.

Fraternally
* Rising Free, 155 Drummond St, London WC1.
Peter Cummings

Spain

*The writer was responsible for the English language edition of CNT-FAI of Casa CNT-FAI, Barcelona May 1937-January 1938.

*The International Libertarian Labor Fund has already sent one thousand dollars to the CNT in Madrid, and is collecting additional funds to send them. Contributions should be sent to the Fund at P.O. Box 783, New York, N.Y. 10003, U.S.A.

FREEDOM: CONTACT:

WE WELCOME news, reviews, letters articles. Latest date for receipt of copy for next Review is Saturday 17 February. For news section Monday 28 February.

NEXT DESPATCHING date for FREEDOM is Thursday 3 March. Come and help from 4 pm onwards. You are welcome each Thurs. afternoon to early evening for folding session and informal get-together.

PRESS FUND

27 January—9 February

NEW YORK: R.J.P. £2.90. VANCOUVER, J.D. £1; WOLVERHAMPTON: J.L. £1; J.K.W. 17p; BELGIUM: W.Z. £1; In Shop: Anon 58p.

Total: £6.65

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INTERNATIONAL

AUSTRALIA

Canberra. Alternative Canberra Group,
10 Belfara Rd. Pialligo. ACT 2609
Melbourne. Martin Giles Peters. c/o Dept.
of Philosophy. Monash University. Melbourne.
New South Wales. P. Stones. P.O. Box 26.
Warrawong. N.S.W.
Sydney. Fed. of Aust. Anarchists. Box 22.
Broadway. 2007 Australia.

NEW ZEALAND

Anarchists resident in or visiting New Zealand
contact Christchurch Anarchists. P.O. Box
22-607 New Zealand

NEW YORK

Libertarian Book Club Lectures 7.30
pm at Workmen's Circle Center, 8th
Ave and 29 St (SW corner). Free ad-
mission, coffee & cookies.

Mar 10 Dwight Macdonald: Recollections
of an Anarchist

Apr 14 Sam Dolgoff: Anarchism in the
Cultural Revolution

May 17 Murray Bookchin: Environment
and Anarchism.

Christian Anarchists in London contact
Doug Truman, 169 Cleveland Street,
Flat 18, London W.1.

THE LIBERTARIAN Student Network is
now functioning. Contact is Peter Baker
A06 Allesley House, Rhodes Residences,
Univ. of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL
PEOPLE with a Disability Liberation
Front. Box 1976, c/o Rising Free, 142
Drummond Street, London NW1
CORBY LIBERTARIAN Education Group
Contact Susan & Terry Phillips, 7
Cresswell Walk, Corby, Northants.

S.E. LONDON Libertarian Group meets
Wednesdays. Ring Georgina 460 1623
BIRMINGHAM Sat-Sun. 26-27 Feb.
British Withdrawal from Northern Ire-
land Campaign general mtg. for all
supporters. Sat. Dr. Johnson House,
Bull St. Sunday, Peace Centre, 18
Moor St., Queensway, New supporters
meet at 11 am Sat.; business meeting
begins 2 pm Sat. To arrange crashing
space write BWNIC c/o 5 Caledonian
Rd. London N1 9DX or ring B'ham (021)
443 2912.

LONDON BWNIC Tues. 1 March. New
supporters 7 pm; business mtg. starts
7.30 pm. 6 Endsleigh St. WC1.

BIRMINGHAM Lib. Soc. group meets
Sundays 8 pm at The Peace Centre, 18
Moor St. Queensway & afterwards in
'The Fox & Grapes' Freeman Street.

NORTH WEST Anarchist Federation.

For mtgs, activists & newsletter
write 165 Rosehill Rd. Bolton. Lancs.

GLASGOW Scottish Libertarian Fed.
'extraordinary' public mtgs. St. Bride's
Centre, Rosevale St., Partick, Mon-
days 7.30 pm

URGENTLY needed to loan or buy:
Krimmerman & Perry, Patterns of An-
archy (N.Y., Doubleday). Also any-
thing relevant to dissertation on "Anar-
chism and the Sociology of Organisations".
Contact D. Tymes, 99 Rosebank,
Sauchie, Clacks., FK10 3NR

VOLUNTARY workers urgently needed
by Peoples News Service, fortnightly
news & information bulletin run by non-
sectarian left-wing collective. No par-
ticular skills needed—just political
commitment. PNS, 142 Drummond St.
London NW1 (01-388-0848).

See also despatching date for next
issue of FREEDOM, when we need
help. And if you are committed to an-
archism and have some skills - e.g.
typing, translating, &c. we'd be glad
to have your offer of help. Freedom
Collective.

GROUPS

ABERYSTWYTH. Mike Sheehan, 59
North Parade, Aberystwyth, Dyfed. An-
archists in other parts of Wales please
contact.

BIRMINGHAM. Bob Prew, 40c Trafal-
gar Rd. Mosley, Birmingham 13
BOLTON anarchist contact 6 Stockley
Ave. Harwood, Bolton (tel. 387516)
CAMBRIDGE anarchists contact Ron
Stephan, 41 York St. Cambridge.
CORBY anarchists write 7 Cresswell
Walk, Corby, Northants.

COVENTRY. Peter Corne c/o Students
Union, Univ. of Warwick, Coventry.
DURHAM. Martin Spence, 11 Front
Street, Sherburn Village, Durham
EAST ANGLIAN Libertarians. Martyn
Everett, 11 Gibson Gardens, Saffron
Walden, Essex

LEEDS c/o Cahal McLoughlin,
15 Winston Gardens, Leeds 8

LEICESTER. Peter and Jean Miller,
41 Norman Road. (tel. 549642)

MANCHESTER Anarchist Group contact
Al on 061-224 3028 for info. & mtgs.

PORTSMOUTH Caroline Cahm, 2 Chad-
derton Gardens, Pembroke Park, Old
Portsmouth.

SWANSEA. Keith Sowerby, House 35
Student Village, Landrefollian, Swansea.

THAMES VALLEY anarchists contact
Adele Dawson, Maymeade, 6 Congress
Rd. Maidenhead SL6 3EE (0626 2974)

SCOTTISH LIBERTARIAN Federation
Aberdeen. Blake c/o APP 67 King St.
Dundee. Mike Malet, 1 Lynnewood Pl.
Edinburgh. Gibson, 7 Union St. (tel.
557-1522)

Glasgow. Baird, 122 Benneray St. G22
(te. 336-7995)

Stirling D. Tyme, 99 Rosebank,
Sauchie, Clacks.
(also contacts in Dumfries, Fife, West
Lothian, Port Glasgow, Highlands.)

MEETINGS

THE WAR GAME. Peter Watkin's film
about a Nuclear Attack on Britain. Hol-
born Library Hall, 32/38 Theobald's Rd
London WC1 (Admission Free), Wed.
23 Feb. at 7.30 p.m.

COVENTRY. All anarchists in Coventry
area wishing to meet regularly please
contact John England, 48 Spencer Ave.,
Earlsdon, Coventry.

HYDE PARK Speakers Corner (Marble
Arch) Anarchist Forum alternate Sun-
days 1 pm. Speakers, listeners and
hecklers welcomed.

EAST LONDON group holds regular
fortnightly mtgs. at 123 Latham Rd. E6.
Phone Ken on 552 3985

KINGSTON Libertarian group meets
Wednesdays. Ring Pauline 549 2564

WALES-Campaign Against a Criminal
Trespass Law: Day Conference Sat.
5 March 11 am - 5 pm, Miners' Hall,
Merthyr Tydfil. For details and booking
form contact CACTL Conference in
Wales, c/o AUEW/TASS, 18 Anne's
Close, Merthyr Tydfil, Mid-Glamorgan

PRISONERS

Change of address Mike Murphy (C01039) now
HM Prison Ashwell Cakham Leics.
John Nightingale (338645) H.M. Prison
Parkhurst nr. Newport Isle of Wight wd.
like to hear from friends old and new.

DUBLIN anarchists Bob Cullen, Des Keane &
Columba Longmore. Military Detention Cen-
tre Curragh Camp Co. Kildare Eire.

Marie Murray and Noel Murray. Protest let-
ters to the Justice Minister 72-76 St. Steph-
ens Green Dublin 2; the Irish Ambassador
17 Grosvenor Place London SW1X 7HR

PUBLICATIONS

ANARCHISM LANCASTRUM No. 10
8p (post 6p) from 16 Kingsmill Ave.,
Whalley, Blackburn Lancs (or Freedom
Bookshop).